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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/618,689

07/09/2003

Robert L. Doubler

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EXAMINER

REESE, DAVID C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3677

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/05/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/618,689	Applicant(s) DOUBLER ET AL.	
	Examiner David C. Reese	Art Unit 3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 10, 13, 14, 17 and 19-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 10, 13, 14, 17 and 19-37 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/17/2009 has been entered. Consequently, the following is the current listing of claims in the instant application:

Status of Claims

- Claims 6-9, 11-12, 15-16, and 18 are canceled.
- Claims 27-38 were added.
- Claims 1, 14, and 26 were amended.
- Claims 1-5, 10, 13-14, 17, 19-38 are pending.

Specification

[1] The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: Many of the terms (third ends, third surface, fourth surface, etc) used in claim 38 are not found in the specification.

Claim Objections

[2] Claim 1 recites the limitation "said central axis" in line 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

[3] The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

[4] Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Wu et al., US-2004/0260283, because the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, or in public use or on sale in this country more than one (1) year prior to the application for patent in the United States.

As for Claim 1, Wu et al. discloses of a precise linear fastener system (see fig. 2) comprising:

a shank (32) having an outer first surface and opposite first end portions;

a collet member (15) having opposite second ends and a shank receiving first bore at least partially defined by an inner shank engaging second surface, said collet member (15) also including an outer compression ring engaging third surface (17) and a longitudinal central axis, said collet member (15) being radially compressible to provide a selective locking engagement between the first surface and the second surface;

a compression ring (31) having opposite third ends and a collet member receiving second bore at least partially defined by an inner collet member engaging fourth surface, the second bore

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having at least [a portion being sized to provide an interference fit with at least a portion of the third surface to effect compression of the collet member (15) and the locking engagement between the second surface and the first surface by relative longitudinal movement between the compression ring (31) and the collet member (15)]*;

and wherein at least one of the third surface and the fourth surface having at least two longitudinally spaced and circumferentially extending first ribs separated by a circumferentially extending first groove therebetween and the other of the third and fourth surfaces having at least one circumferentially extending second rib sized and shaped for an interfering fit with a respective said first rib [to provide radial compression of the collet member (15) and tension in the compression ring (31) to lock the shank (32) in the first bore and having a longitudinally extending second groove adjacent a respective second rib for selectively receiving a respective first rib therein and at least one second rib being selectively receivable in a respective first groove to provide a shank release position]*.

*Examiner's note: the above statement in brackets is an example of intended use language; language that in the instant case fails to further limit the structure of the claimed invention. The prior art only needs to be capable of performing said function to be anticipatory, and in the instant case, the compression and collet member of Wu et al. are capable of satisfying the relationship of structural limitations as afforded by the functional nature of both the released and locked positions as described by the claim above (having at least one circumferentially extending second rib sized and shaped for an interfering fit with a respective said first rib; and having a longitudinally extending second groove adjacent a respective second rib for selectively receiving a respective first rib therein and at least one second rib being selectively receivable in a

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respective first groove to provide a shank release position) by simply forcing one set of threads non-rotatably downward against the other set of threads.

It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

Allowable Subject Matter

[5] Claims 1-5, 10, 13-14, 17, and 19-37 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

[6] The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. This application has been reviewed by the examiner and meets all formal and substantive (i.e., statutory) requirements and the language of the claims is enabled by, and finds adequate descriptive supported in the application disclosure as originally filed.

The primary reason for the allowance of the claims is the presence of limitations in the independent claims, which are not found in the prior art references. The examiner believes that the record of the prosecution as a whole makes clear his reasons for allowing a claim or claims. However, the examiner would like to point out one or more specific reasons and/or limitations that the prior art fails to disclose and/or make obvious. Hence, the prior art fails to disclose of a collet member having an outer ribbed surface non-helically positioned about a central axis, said outer ribbed surface including at least one peak and at least one valley each extending about said outer ribbed surface on an independent plane that is substantially perpendicular to said central axis.

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Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

[7] THIS ACTION IS NON-FINAL

[8] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David C. Reese whose telephone number is (571) 272-7082. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am-6:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached at (571) 272-6987. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is the following: (571) 273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

David Reese

/D. C. R./

Examiner, Art Unit 3677

/Victor Batson/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3677